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the most complete realization of the ends of all education; yet how rarely is a step ever taken in the direction of putting into execution these four principles, and how often are they violated entirely!

Even to-day, as in years gone by, we find the scientist placed in charge of hospitals full of sick men, and with the lives of women and children in his hands besides, when he can see with his own eyes that every time he is called to attend, as physician, upon the sick, his very presence is detrimental to their recovery, while his painful attempts to demonstrate to those about him that he is trying to do his full duty, only results in total lack of confidence on the part of all the friends, relatives, and attendants, who draw a sigh of relief when he has left the room, and scrutinize his rather vague directions with suspicion.

The same applies to all the other incongruities that I cited above; and examples of every one of them for the last thirty years could and still can be found at any time represented in the government, and in most instances require a radical change, to say nothing of the benefits that would result to humanity for all time.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Fort Wingate, N. Mex., March 14.

#### The silver problem.

It is generally taken for granted in arguments on this and finance or money problems generally, that the state of business, industry, or economic prosperity, of the nations as they now exist, depends in a very large measure on the substance of which their money is made. Stagnation, crises, and all the baneful consequences thereof, are ascribed to the money system without any intelligent reason.

Money is any thing whose exchange value serves as a standard for measuring the exchange value of other things or of services. It follows that the best money is that whose exchange value is most fixed and unvarying. By a 'survival of the fittest' process, gold now has gained its place as the money best fitted for our present economic system; i. e., the exploitation or capitalistic system.

The customary blunder of the finance tinkers and thinkers is to ascribe the evil results of the present economic system to the money or finance department thereof. This they never do intelligently or clearly, and never can, because that relation does not exist: hence the confusion and general intellectual bankruptcy that prevails on this issue. In the prevailing capitalistic system, money and all other exchange values are permitted to become private property. The producers of exchange values have to give them over to a middleman (capitalist), who compels them to do that by the power of the state, which upholds him therein by upholding him as owner of the means of production. But the producers are by this process exploited (fleeced) by this third party. For example: a shoemaker and tailor would, if free to make their exchange directly, exchange, say, three pairs of shoes for two coats. But the middleman (capitalist) fleeces both by keeping for himself as much as he possibly can of the labor-products of both, without giving any thing in return. He gives the tailor in money the exchange value of only one pair of shoes in exchange for the two coats, and the shoemaker only the exchange value in money of one coat for the three pairs of shoes: consequently, by the hocus-pocus of the

money system, he is 'in' one coat and two pairs of shoes. This right to be 'in' is his 'legal' or 'vested' right, — his 'profit.' The producers may deem it a 'vested wrong,' and a great many are beginning to think that way.

Besides being a 'shaving' system, it is also a 'competitive' system; that is, those workingmen get the 'prize,' work and wages, who will live in the meanest and cheapest manner; that is, who work for the lowest price, or, in other words, who will consume the least. The capitalist gets the prize, 'profit,' who has the most integrated and differentiated means of production along with the cheapest labor; that is, who can produce the quickest and most. On one side, the consuming power is decreased; on the other, the producing power is being increased; and in the middle both are fleeced. The result is this remarkably anomalous spectacle of people who are willing to work suffering from want because there is too much produced, and non-producers consuming enormously.

Herein, and not in the money department, is the real 'root of the evil.' Only a remedy that goes to this root, that is, in the root-sense of the word, *radical*, will cure the evil. This remedy is socialism.

CHAS. FIELD.

#### A swindler abroad again.

A person has been operating in Illinois and Iowa, representing himself to be Prof. H. S. Williams at some points, and Professor Oelrich at others; in all cases, so far as heard from, assuming to be connected with the faculty of Cornell university. His *modus operandi* is to borrow scientific works, money, and paleontological specimens, and contract with colleges to furnish series of fossils illustrative of American geology. He is an expert in classifying fossils, and his method of work is strongly suggestive of the individual who duped many scientific workers last year under the *alias* of Lesquereux. He has worked his games at Galesburg, Ill., Burlington, Mount Pleasant, Ottumwa, and Oskaloosa, Io., being at the latter place March 8 last. He is undersized, a man of from thirty to thirty-five years of age, light hair, beard, and mustache, and apparently having no use of his right arm, though this defect may have been simulated.

H. D. CRAWFORD.

Ottumwa, Io., March 18.

#### Reports of the National academy of sciences.

From inquiries which I have received, there appears to be a general misunderstanding concerning the reports made by committees of the National academy of sciences. It is assumed by the public that these reports have been examined and approved by the academy, and therefore that they express the opinion of that body. This is a mistake. Generally a report is not submitted to the academy for discussion, and it must be understood to represent only the opinion of the committee who sign the report. An example will be found in a late report, published as senate document No. 67 (forty-ninth congress, first session), in which it is recommended to change the beginning of the astronomical day from noon to midnight. Probably a majority of the astronomers of the academy would oppose such a change if they were permitted to speak.

ASAPH HALL.

March 18.